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Message Text

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43
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 MC-02 OMB-01 CEQ-02

COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEAE-00

DLOS-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 OIC-04 DRC-01 /188 W
---------- 013760
R 131555Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2044
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7869

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS
SUBJEC: PRG ATTENDANCE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE AND LOS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 119953

1. POL COUNSELOR REVIEWED REFTEL WITH MEA JOINT SCRETARIES FOR UN AND EA AFFAIRS JUNE 13. BOTH WERE RESERVED BUT OFFERED PERSONAL JUDGMENTS THAT GOI MIGHT BE PREPARED TO TAKE SYMPTHETIC VIEW OF USG POSITION ON ICRC CIRCULAR TO LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. BOTH CONSIDERED THAT REASONABLE CASE COULD BE MADE THAT FEBRUARY-MARCH DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE HAD SET GROUNDRULES FOR EXPERTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING THIS FALL ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. (NEITHER WAS AWARE THUS FAR OF ICRC CIRCULAR QUERY.) NEVERTHELESS, BOTH CAUTIONED GOI WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER QUESTION AT HIGHER LEVEL.

2. ON LOS CONFERENCE, MEA OFFICERS TOOK MORE CAUTIOUS STAND,
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NOTING US POINT OF VIEW BUT OBSERVING THAT CARACAS MEETING WAS

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OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES WHO COULD AGREE TO RECONSIDER CREDENTIALS ISSUE. IF THIS OCCURRED, GOI POSITION ON PRG PARTICIPATION WOULD PROBABLY REFLECT GENERAL GOI POSITION ON PRG IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS (NEW DELHI 6889). INDIAN OFFICIALS AGREED THAT MAIN OBJECTIVE OF LOS CONFERENCE WAS TO GET ON WITH SUBSTANCE OF ISSUES AND AVOID PROLONGED CONTROVERSY OVER CREDENTIALS, BUT SAID THAT IF THE ISSUE AROSE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOI TO REVERSE ITS GROUND ON PRG.

3. COMMENT: WE DON'T LOOK FOR MUCH HELP FROM GOI ON THIS ISSUE AT LOS MEETING, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT EXPECT INDIANS TO TAKE LEADING ROLE IN PRESSING PRG PARTICIPATION. ON LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE, ODDS ARE ABOUT 60-40 INDIANS WILL NOT ROCK THE BOAT TO REVERSE THE DECISION AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE SESSION THREE MONTHS AGO.

4. IN GENERAL INFORMAL ASIDE ON PRG REPRESENTATION IN NEW DELHI, THE NEW MEA JOINT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIA OFFERED THE OPINION THAT THE GOI SHOULD TREAT THE PRG AS IT DID THE FLN BEFORE ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE. THE FLN HAD PRESSED HARD FOR A PRESENCE IN NEW DELHI, AND THE GOI HAD CONSISTENTLY REFUSED. THE JOINT SECRETARY THOUGHT THE PRG POSITION WAS CLOSELY ANALOGOUS AND SHOULD BE TREATED THE SAME WAY BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. POL COUNSELOR COMMENTED THAT POSITION MADE EMINENT SENSE AND HOPED GOI WOULD FOLLOW SUCH A POLICY. MOYNIHAN

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